



The Amsterdam- group.

January -09 was a starting point for a new life of Thematic Network Social Work(TNUA). A group of six people – one from each of six nations above the Arctic Circle – gathered as members of a working group for the network. The group was simply appointed by the coordinator of TNUA to support the leadership, and contribute with ideas and perspectives in making TNUA a real working network. The members of the group are:

- Heli Arola, Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Lars Nordlander, University of Umeå, Sweden
- Heidi Leonara Brocius, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA
- Elena Golubeva, Pomor State University, Arkhangelsk, Russia
- Doug Durst, University of Regina, Canada
- Asgeir Solstad, Bodoe University College, Norway

We had meetings in January 2009 and 2010 – in Amsterdam. Why? It was the cheapest place for us to meet....

The working plan

One of the outcomes of these Amsterdam- meetings is a working plan for the network. The main points of the 2010 working plan are:

- Give a 10 cr. Master course, titled “Social Policy in the High North” as part of the UA Masterprogram in Social Work in Bodø, Oct. 2010.

- To motivate and support student placements across the “the top of the World”.
- To plan for, and organise a conference for institutions in our network – we are approx. 30 – in Reykjavik, August 2011.
- Develop a 10 cr. Bachelor course on “Social Policy in the High North”, based on distant learning methods.
- The working group will work together on an article, titled “*What are the challenges of social work in the high north?*” to present a challenge to activities in the network.

Network conference in Reykjavik.

The first conference of our network will take place in Reykjavik, August 14.-16. 2011. We have chosen that time and place because the Nordic Association of Social Work Educations and the Nordic associations of Social Workers are having a common conference in Reykjavik that finishes by August 14th. We imagine that a lot of participants may find it interesting to combine the conferences.

The title of our conference will be: “*Supporting healthy communities through social work*”.

Of course there will be exciting plenary sessions. We are working on a good program, and will return to that as soon as we have the details fixed.

We are planning four work shops, where papers can be presented:

- Building healthy communities through social work
- Strength perspectives on social work in the high north
- Social work education in the high north
- Globalisation and social work in the high north.

We have agreed with the publisher of the electronic "*Journal of Comparative Social Work*" (<http://www.jcsw.no/>) that articles, based on papers presented in the conference, will be published in special edition. Before publishing, the articles have to pass peer review. The special edition will be edited by two academics. One of them will be Prof. Doug Durst from University of Regina, Canada. of May 31st. this year.

We really hope this conference will represent an important inspiration and drive to generate good teaching and research for the best for social work in our part of the world.

We look forward to meet you in Reykjavik!

New money, new possibilities!

Our network has just received approx. 25.000 euros from the Norwegian government, which supports Arctic University activities like our network.

This grant is very important to us, as it makes it possible to us to develop the network and its activities.

The first course in "Social Policy in the High North" starts!

During the first week of October this year teachers from Russia, Sweden, Finland, Canada, USA and Norway will teach at our UA Master program in Social Work in Bodø in Norway.

This is an important achievement for our network. We experience cooperation in practical work, and have a chance to discuss different approaches to social work. It will be an exciting and interesting experience for our students.

Read more about this course and our Master program at our website:

<http://www.uarctic.org/singleArticle.aspx?m=281&mid=1143>

The next newsletter

In our next newsletter, which will be published in October, we will present outcomes from this week. We will also present more about our conference, and what will be the agenda on our next Amsterdam meeting in January 2011.

About the newsletter:

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